

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 DPW-01 DHA-02 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

----- 060397

R 180545Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO JCRC UTAPAO RTAFB TH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC//J40424//J042//

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0687

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COUNTRY CLEARANCE

REF A JCRC 170905Z MAR 76 (NOTAL), B STATE 064838 (171945Z
MAR 76 NOTAL)

1. REF A REQUESTS COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR VISIT TO VIENTIANE
MARCH 22-24 BY CAPT RAY VOHDEN, USN, PRINCIPAL ADVISOR,
OFFICE OF POW/MIA AFFAIRS, OASD/ISA, AND COL LUTHER C. VAUGHN,
USA, JCRC LNO/LAOS, FOR DISCUSSION OF POW/MIA SITUATION IN
LAOS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

2. EMBASSY REGRETS THAT IT CANNOT CONCUR IN PROPOSED VISIT AT
THIS TIME FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO DEVELOPMENTS IN POW/MIA FIELD
IN LAOS SINCE DECEMBER VISIT OF CODEL MONTGOMERY, ON WHICH
THE SUBJECT OFFICERS ARE FULLY INFORMED; (B) EMBASSY HAS SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS (REF B) TO RAISE ENTIRE POW/MIA
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QUESTION WITH LPDR OFFICIALS ONCE AGAIN, AND CHARGE AND OTHER

MISSION OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH QUESTION WILL BE ENGAGED IN CARRYING OUT THOSE INSTRUCTIONS DURING PERIOD OF PROPOSED VISIT; AND (C) CURRENT LAO COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ABOUT ALLEGED U.S. SPONSORSHIP AND THAI BACKING OF ANTI-LPDR RESISTANCE EFFORTS, WHICH CHARGE HAS RECENTLY RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, MAKES IT DESIRABLE THAT FOR THE MOMENT WE LIMIT VISITS BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO LAOS. ALSO, WE KNOW THAT UNHCR HANOI REPRESENTATIVE DARRYL HYUN HAN HAS NO RPT NO PLANS TO VISIT VIENTIANE DURING PERIOD OF PROPOSED VISIT; UNHCR/LAOS PERSONNEL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT INSIGHTS INTO POW/MIA MATTERS.

3. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT COL VAUGHN CAN ADEQUATELY BRIEF CAPT VOHDEN ON STATUS OF POW/MIA QUESTION IN LAOS ON BASIS OF HIS SEVERAL VISITS TO LAOS IN LAST THREE-FOUR MONTHS.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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